PPL13 PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET
Updated: March 21, 2003

Project Name and Number
Shark Island Shoreline Protection, 3-4

Coast 2050 Strategy
Regional Strategy #11; Maintain shoreline integrity and stabilize critical areas of Vermilion, E. and W. Cote Blanche, Atchafalaya , Caillou, Terrebonne, and Timbalier Bay systems including the gulf shoreline.

Project Location
Region 3, Teche-Vermilion Basin, Iberia Parish; the western shoreline of Shark Island from Weeks Bay around Pelican Point down to Blue Point.

Problem
This shoreline has experienced some of the greatest loss in the Teche-Vermilion Basin. Wind and wave action has greatly deteriorated the coastline. The northern end of the shore has retreated approximately 36 feet/year and the southern half of the shore has retreated 24 feet/year as reported by Britsch and Dunbar (1996). Between 1978-1990 the shoreline loss is estimated to be 0.5 square miles/year (1994 U.S. Dept. of Interior).

Goals
Stabilize the western shoreline of Shark Island.

Proposed Solution
Construct approximately 4.5 miles of shoreline rock revetment.

Preliminary Project Benefits
This project would halt 100% of the shoreline loss along the western side of Shark Island while providing limited secondary protection to brackish marshes to the east. The project will protect 291 acres of adjacent marsh.

Compatibility with Coast 2050 Criteria

Wetland Elevation/Sustainability
The project will maintain the shoreline integrity and provide protection from northwesterly wind that have a predominant impact to the shoreline during cold front passage, and easterly marshes from wave action and saltwater intrusion. Protection of this shoreline will allow for any natural vertical accretion of the marsh to continue. Protection of the is land peninsula (Pelican Point) separating Weeks Bay from Vermilion Bay is also a long-term priority. Over a 20-year project life, the project would protect approximately 291 acres of marsh from shoreline erosion using an average rate of 30 ft/year placing it in the 250 to 500 acre range.

Ecosystem Influence Area
The project would directly protect 291 acres of marsh resulting in less than a 1,000 acre ecosystem influence area.

Structural Framework
Hard structures would maintain the bay shorelines by reducing erosion of greater than 75% of the ecosystem influence area for greater than 20 years.

Infrastructure
The project would not have any impact to critical or non-critical infrastructure.

Organism and Material Linkages
Structures used for the project would allow moderately less exchange of organisms and material, but would remain consistent with the sustainability of the ecosystem.

Coast 2050 Habitat Objectives

Habitat currently located in the project area consists of brackis h marsh. Future without the project the area would remain as brackish marsh. Therefore, the project would have no effect on meeting the habitat objective.

Project Synergy

The project would not have any synergistic effect with other restoration projects.

Identification of Potential Issues

Oysters (state oyster seed ground) and high operations and maintenance.

Preliminary Construction Costs

Fully funded cost range: $10 - $15 M
$7,500,000 (construction + 25% contingency)

Preparer of Fact Sheet

Patrick Williams, National Marine Fisheries Service; (225)389-0508; patrick.williams@noaa.gov